Academic Language Functions

Academic Language Function	Student Uses Language to:	Examples	Thinking Map [©]	Graphic Organizers	Language Structures/Key Signal Words	Tasks Associated with Academic Language Function	Questions Commonly Asked
Seek Information	Observe and explore; acquire information; inquire	Use who, what, when, where, and how to gather information	Circle Map	Attribute Diagram Web SQ3R Concept Definition Map Outlines Cornell Note-taking	To be, action verbs, prepositions	Define, count, draw, identify, indicate, label, list, match, name, point, recall, recite, reproduce, repeat, trace, write, state, select, record, attributes, characteristics, main idea	Who?, What happened?, Where did it happen?, When did it happen?, Where did you find that?, How do you do that?
Inform	Identify, report, or describe information	Recount information presented by teacher or text, retell a story or personal information	Circle Map Bubble Map	Web SQ3R Concept Definition Map Outlines Cornell Note-taking	Adjective use, descriptive language, superlatives/comparatives,said, the book says, first, second, next, etc., according to	Retell, recount, reorder, represent, depict, paraphrase, summarize, give examples, draw, explain, conclude, convert, describe, prepare, transform, translate, restate, rewrite, prepare, give in your own words, generalize, extrapolate	Retell the story in your own words. Summarize the chapter on What happened?, Report your findings., Describe the main character. Tell about What happened? Show how
Compare	Describe similarities and differences in objects or ideas	Make/explain a graphic organizer to show difference and similarity	Double bubble Map Bridge Map	Venn Diagram Semantic Features Analysis T-Chart Fact-Opinion Charts	However, but, as well as, on the other hand, not onlybut also, eitheror, while, although, unless, similarly, yet, compared with, similar to, different than, and yet, as opposed to, alternatively, apart from, by contrast, contrary to that, conversely, in spite of this, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, regardless, some, but others, still, then again, by the same token, correspondingly, likewise, too	Distinguish, compare, contrast, group, identify, illustrate, point out, recognize, separate, describe, attributes, commonalities, differences, differentiate,	How are and the same? Different? Compare and Describe Now, describe Do either of these ? What makes the same? What makes different? How do we know the difference between and?

Order	Sequence objects, ideas, or events	Describe/make a timeline continuum, cycle, or narrative sequence	Flow Map	Cycle Graph Flow chart Timeline Outlines	First, second, third, Next, before, after, afterwards, later on, time, not long after, now, as, when, immediately, preceding, initially, meanwhile, following, until, soon, today, as soon as	Organize, develop, discover, complete, process, outline, order	Put these in chronological order. What happened first? (Second, later, last, etc.) When was? What would happen if?
Classify	Group objects or ideas according to their characteristics	Describe organizing principles, explain why A is an example but B is not	Tree Map	Hierarchical Organizer Pictograph	Descriptors, adjectives, kinds, types, traits, characteristics, an example of, list	Classify, break down, arrange, organize, categorize, construct, create, generate, summarize, criteria, preclude, include, arrange, group, genres	What color is? What size is? What is the texture like? What types of are represented here? What traits do these have in common? What characteristics do these have in common? What makes these different? Sort these by (size, color, texture, shape, etc.)
Analyze	Separate whole into parts; identify relationships and patterns	Describe parts, feature or main idea of information presented	Brace Map Multi-flow Map Flow Map Tree Map Circle Map	Fishbone Organizers Main idea/supporting details Organizer	Is a part of, is related to, to be, same, different, similarities, differences, the common traits, to, so that, nevertheless, thus, accordingly, ifthen (conditional connectors), makes, causes, because, creates, results in, due to, on account of, therefore	Analyze, calculate, choose, classify, criteria, diagram, break down, categorize, classify, compare, contrast, deduce, detect, differentiate, discriminate, distinguish, group, identify, illustrate, infer, order, outline, point out, recognize, relate, select, separate, subdivide, transform	What is the difference? How is/are they related? Why isimportant? Are they common traits? What caused to happen? What results/consequences might create? What is the main idea? What details support this idea?

Infer	Make inferences; predict implications, hypothesize	Describe reasoning process (inductive or deductive) or generate hypothesis to generate causes or outcomes	Multi-flow Map	T-Chart	Future tense, use of will, ifnot, ifthen (conditional connectors), descriptive verbs, adjectives	Predict, extrapolate, restate, represent, rewrite, summarize, give examples, evidence, supporting details, reconstruct, synthesize, derive, deduce, explain, create, construct	Why? Why did that happen? How did that happen? Why do you think? What makes you think? What tells you? How do you know that?
Justify and persuade	Give reasons for an action, decision, point of view; be convincing	Tell why A is important and give evidence in support of a position	Circle Map Tree Map	Opposing forces chart Prediction Tree	I think, according to, for example, in fact, most important Ifnot, ifthen, I believe, because, since, based upon, you should, understand, on the contrary, you need to, therefore, from my point of view	Justify, argue, persuade, make a case for or against, compare, contrast, distinguish, discriminate, illustrate, recognize, point out, relate, deduce, categorize, combine, document, support, test, validate, verify, criteria, refer, relationship, irrelevant, preclude, include, give/support your point of view, tone, thesis, evidence, debate, crucial, critical	Why do you think this is important? What evidence do you have to support your point of view? How can you convince someone of your ideas? What reasons will you give to justify your point of view? How did you arrive at your decision?
Solve Problems	Define and represent a problem; determine solution	Describe problem- solving procedure; apply to real life problems	Multi-flow Map	Problem-Solution boxes Cause-effect Chain Opposing forces chart	Because, since, therefore, so that, consequently, as a result, this led	Solve, deduce, hypothesize, causes, effects, support, test, validate, verify, summarize, rate, rank, measure, relate, recommend, justify, judge, interpret, determine, discriminate, decide, criteria, table, refer, relationship, diagram, consequence	What is the process to solve this problem? What is required to solve this problem? Why? What is the criteria? What is your hypothesis? What evidence do you have to support your hypothesis? What is the relationship between and? What are the causes? What are the effects? What is your interpretation of this conclusion?

Synthesize	Combine or integrate ideas to form a new whole	Summarize information cohesively; incorporate new information into prior knowledge	Circle Map	Webs	Conjunctions, in other words, that is to say, to put it differently	Arrange, categorize, combine, compile, compose, construct, create, deduce, derive, design, devise, develop, document, explain, formulate, generalize, generate, integrate, modify, organize, prepare, plan, produce,	What would your plan be for? How might this be different if? How would you rewrite this? How would you arrange this into? How do they relate to each other?
Evaluate	Assess and verify the	Identify criteria,	Double Bubble	Cause-effect Chain	I think, according to, for example,	propose, rearrange, reconstruct, relate, reorganize, revise, rewrite specify, summarize, tell, transmit, write, criteria Appraise, argue,	What is your favorite
	worth of an object, idea, or decision	explain priorities, indicate reasons for judgment, confirm truth	Map (prioritize characteristics) Multi-flow Map	Opposing forces Chart	in fact, most important, for instance, for example, specifically	assess, compare, conclude, consider, contrast, criticize, critique, decide, describe, determine, discriminate, distinguish, evaluate, grade, judge, justify, write, recommend, validate, verify, test, support, rate, rank, measure, criteria, interpret, relate	? Why? How does this impact? How or why is this significant? How or why is this valuable? How or why is this useful? What did you do to develop? Why?

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